

# ***WEIMER CREEK SALVAGE TIMBER SALE INITIAL PROPOSAL***

DECEMBER 03, 2008

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SECTION: 16  
TOWNSHIP: 7 North  
RANGE: 3 WEST  
ACREAGE RANGE: 465 acres

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REQUEST RESPONSE DATE: January 1, 2009

PROPOSAL:

The Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, Central Land Office - Helena Unit, is proposing a salvage timber sale on approximately 50 acres of forested State Trust Lands. The proposed project area is located approximately 2.5 miles southeast of Jefferson City, Montana, in Jefferson County.

PROJECT NEED:

The lands involved in this proposed project are held by the State of Montana in trust for the support of specific beneficiary institutions such as public schools, state colleges and universities, and other specific state institutions such as the School for the Deaf and Blind (Enabling Act of February 22, 1889; 1972 Montana Constitution, Article X, Section 11). The Board of Land Commissioners and the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation are required by law to administer these trust lands to produce the largest measure of reasonable and legitimate return over the long run for these beneficiary institutions (Section 77-1-202, MCA). On May 30<sup>th</sup>, 1996, the Department released the Record of Decision on the State Forest Lands Management Plan (the Plan). The land board approved the Plan's implementation on June 17, 1996. The Plan outlines the management philosophy of the DNRC in the management of state forested trust lands, as well as sets out specific Resource Management Standards for ten resource categories.

The Department will manage the lands involved in this project according to the Administrative Rules for State Forest Land Management (ARM36.11.401 through 450).

The Rules implement the philosophy and standards of the State Forest Land Management Plan (SFLMP), which states: Our premise is the best way to produce long-term income for the trust is to manage intensively for healthy and biologically diverse forests. Our understanding is that a diverse forest is a dynamic forest that will produce the most reliable and highest long-term revenue stream. In the foreseeable future, timber management will continue to be DNRC's primary source of revenue and primary tool for achieving biodiversity objectives.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES:

In order to meet the goals of the management philosophy adopted through programmatic review in the Plan, the Department has set the following project objectives:

1. Salvage/utilize lodgepole and ponderosa pine damaged by mountain pine beetle (MPB) on approximately 50 acres.
2. Manage Douglas-fir found throughout this 50 acre tract via a seed tree/shelterwood harvest to promote the establishment of natural regeneration.
3. Restore and improve forest health and vigor.
4. Provide cash revenue flow for the school trust fund.

EXISTING CONDITIONS / PROPOSED ACTIONS:

Mountain pine beetle is found throughout this stand with tree mortality and pitch tubes being prevalent in ponderosa and lodgepole pine. Management activities would involve cutting all the lodgepole pine as well as ponderosa pine infested with MPB. Scattered Douglas-fir would be managed via an even-aged seed tree/shelterwood harvest to promote the natural regeneration of this species.

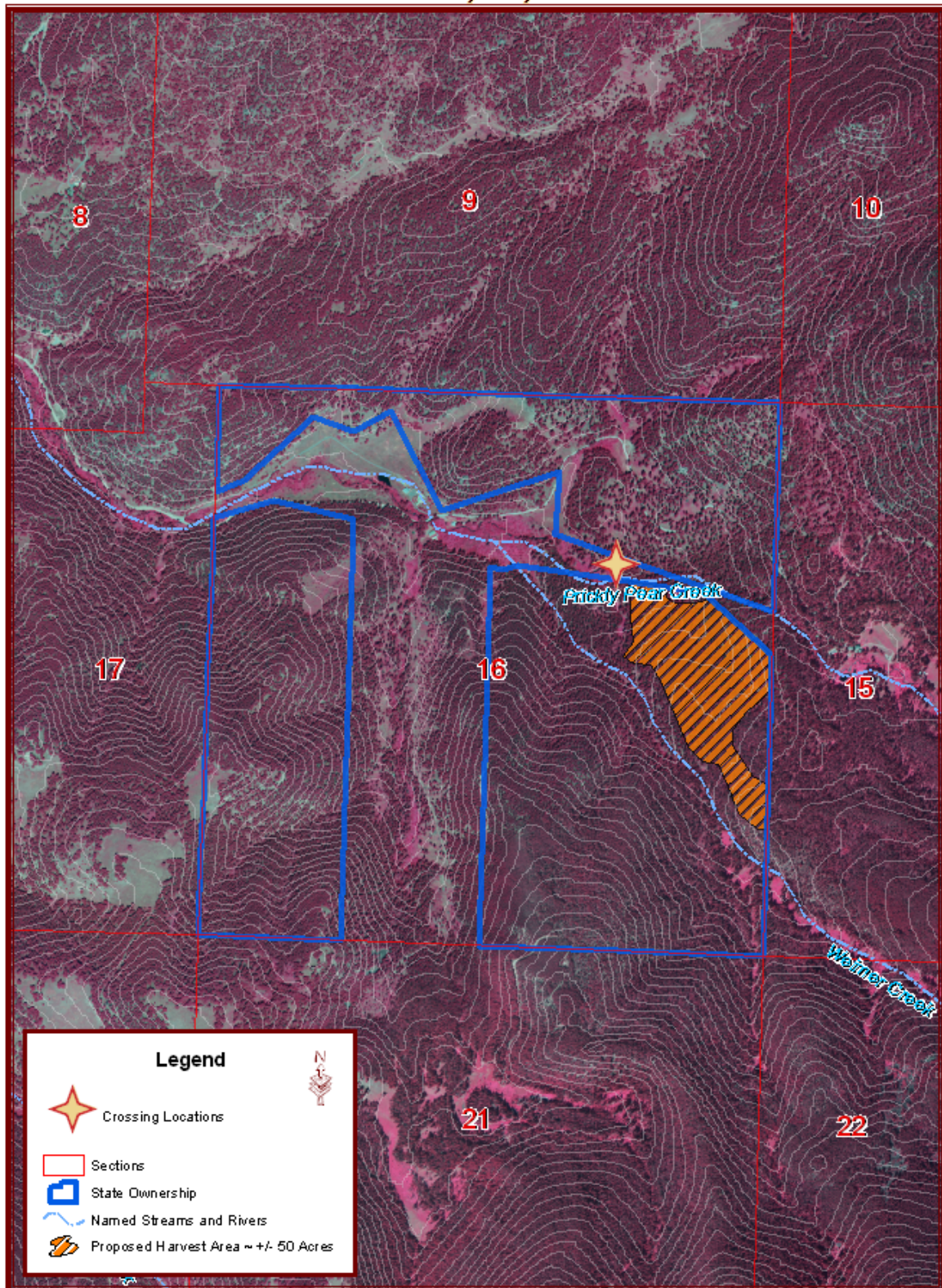
- Access to the proposed salvage timber sale on State Trust Lands in Section 16, Township 7 North, Range 3 West, is through private lands along Prickly Pear Creek and Tizer Road.
- No new road construction would be necessary to implement this project. Existing landings on State lands would be utilized to deck rough forest products forwarded from the project area. Minor maintenance may be required along Prickly Pear/Tizer Road to safely facilitate semi-truck travel.
- A 124 Permit would need to be obtained from the County Conservation District to allow the placement of a temporary bridge in Prickly Pear Creek and a rubber-mat ford crossing in one of its tributaries. A forwarder would be implemented to skid wood from the harvest unit to the landing area across the above mentioned water. This would provide for full suspension of sawlogs/pulpwood minimizing impacts to the watershed.
- An estimated harvest volume of 450-500 MBF is expected from the proposed Weimer Creek Salvage Timber Sale. Silvicultural prescriptions may include the implementation of:
  - a. Even-aged regeneration harvests.
    - Seed tree/shelterwood harvest ~ Douglas-fir
    - Clearcut ~ lodgepole pine
    - Seed tree ~ ponderosa pine
- A post-harvest weed spray program would be implemented to control possible spread of noxious weeds along the access route/skid trail.

COMMENTS:

Contacting the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, c/o Shawn P. Morgan, 8001 North Montana Avenue, Helena, Montana 59602, phone 406-458-3516, or email at [shmorgan@mt.gov](mailto:shmorgan@mt.gov) to make comments or if further assistance and clarification are needed.



**Weimer Creek ~ Salvage Timber Sale**  
**Initial Proposal Map**  
Section 16, T7N, R3W



Mapped By: Shawn Morgan, 12/03/08

1:15,840

Contour Interval = 40 Feet

0 625 1,250 2,500 3,750 5,000 Feet